



REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR FYS 1999, 2000, 2001

DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

STATE OF HAWAI'I





The Honorable Benjamin Jerome Cayetano
Governor of Hawai'i

FRONT COVER CAPTION:

The picture on the front cover is of `Āao Valley State Monument, as photographed by the State Historic Preservation Division.

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LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR

The Honorable Benjamin Jerome Cayetano
Governor of Hawai'i
Executive Chambers
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Dear Governor Cayetano,

I am pleased to submit to you the 1998-2001 Department of Land and Natural Resources tri-annual report for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2001.

This report covers a wide spectrum of subjects including: water, engineering, wildlife, land leases, land conveyances, historic sites, hunting, ocean resources, historic sites, parks, Kaho`olawe and the development of recreational trails.

The work of DLNR is critical to the protection of Hawai'i's natural resources. As the stewards for 1.3 million acres of Hawai'i state lands it is our task to manage and regulate land and ocean uses consistent with the goals and objectives of the Hawai'i State Constitution.

The years 1998-2001 represent a time of dramatic change. Increasingly complex land use and ocean issues, a persistent drought, the development of new responsibilities in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, changes in ocean recreation technology, changes in coastal planning and regulation, new coordinated watershed management among diverse land owners, small boat harbor development, water rights, invasive plants and animals, issues of risk assessment on public trails, and computerization of our land conveyance and recording systems are just a few of the challenges that were faced by DLNR personnel during this period.

The last years of the 20th century brought dramatic changes to DLNR. The Board and the Staff of DLNR continue to work in the best interests of the people of Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

Gilbert Coloma-Agaran, Chairperson
Department of Land and Natural Resources

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

2002 marks the end of the Cayetano administration. While general fund support of DLNR programs has diminished during this period, the people at the department have continued to work hard at protecting and maintaining Hawai'i's unique and precious natural resources. More of the department's work is being done with federal matching funds and grants, and with the community.

Since 1994, important changes in the management of public land and ocean areas have been implemented. Among the policies developed during this period are the watershed partnerships. These partnerships encourage adjoining landowners, whether they are individuals, trusts, NGOs or government organizations, such as DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), to build fences across boundaries. By encouraging land owners to build partnerships with state, federal, military and private landowners we have extended our capacity to protect precious watershed areas, even during periods of fiscal austerity.

New scenic and coastal areas have been purchased at Ka Iwi on O'ahu and Lumahai on Kaua'i, and improvements made to heavily used parks such as the Diamond Head State Monument.

Reforms in fishery management were implemented through our Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) that have encouraged the creation of marine life conservation districts (MLCDs), fostered regional and community based management, and discouraged the taking of fish below optimal reproductive size.

Both the Bureau of Conveyances and the Land Division now possess state-of-the-art computer systems. Likewise, our Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation has worked to upgrade and reorganize our small boat harbors.

Our network of trails, through the Nā Ala Hele organization allow us to make hundreds of miles of recreational trails available to local residents as well as to visitors from all over the world.

In light of the federal efforts in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) is developing new rules to manage the state waters consistent with the federal agencies.

It's been a pleasure to have been able to contribute to and to have supported the good work of the people at DLNR.

Gilbert Coloma-Agaran
Chairperson